

Follow the Oil Care Code

AT HOME

- When you drain your engine oil – don't oil the drain!
- Take used oil to an oil bank, so that it can be recycled.
- Telephone 0800 66 33 66 free of charge to find the location of your nearest oil recycling bank.
- Don't mix used oil with other substances, such as paint or solvents, as this makes recycling very difficult.
- If you have oil fired heating, regularly check your tank and pipes for leaks. If you notice a sharp increase in the amount of oil you are using, you may have a leaking pipe.
- Do not burn waste oil on a bonfire.

AT WORK

- Site your storage tank within an oil tight bund wall on an impervious base. Make sure that valves and pipes are contained within the bund.
- Make sure that the bund has no drain which would allow oil to escape.
- Don't overfill your tank, check the amount of oil already in the tank before receiving a delivery.
- Supervise all deliveries, stop the delivery if there are any leaks or overflows.
- Clearly mark all pipework to show the type of oil and where it leads, and lock all valves and gauges securely after a delivery.

IF AN OIL SPILL OCCURS

- Try to stop the oil from entering any drains or watercourses using earth or sandbags to absorb it. Never hose it down.

CALL THE 24 HOUR EMERGENCY HOTLINE FREE
AT ANY TIME ON 0800 80 70 60.

**Oil and water don't mix, please help
us to keep them apart.**



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

MANAGEMENT AND CONTACTS:

The Environment Agency delivers a service to its customers, with the emphasis on authority and accountability at the most local level possible. It aims to be cost-effective and efficient and to offer the best service and value for money.

Head Office is responsible for overall policy and relationships with national bodies including Government.

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For general enquiries please call your local Environment Agency office. If you are unsure who to contact, or which is your local office, please call our general enquiry line.

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE
0645 333 111**

The 24-hour emergency hotline number for reporting all environmental incidents relating to air, land and water in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

**EMERGENCY HOTLINE
0800 80 70 60**



ENVIRONMENT
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SERVICE

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"Our aims are to protect and conserve the natural and built environment and to promote its appreciation for the benefit of present and future generations."

Our website address is www.nics.gov.uk/ehs



ENVIRONMENT
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Follow the Oil Care Code



The problem

Oil is a common and highly visible form of pollution. Because of the way it spreads, even a small quantity can cause a lot of harm: five litres of oil is enough to cover a small lake.



Fuel oil pollution.

Oil accounts for one quarter of all pollution incidents, with over 6,000 such incidents in the UK each year. The most commonly encountered types of oil are diesel, central heating oil, waste oil and petrol.

Oil forms a film on the surface of rivers and lakes which can drastically reduce the level of oxygen in the water, making it difficult for fish to breathe. It can also coat plants and animals that come into contact with it. Large quantities of water are taken from rivers and groundwaters for use as drinking water or for irrigation. Oil contamination can make the water unfit for these purposes.

Oil causes serious problems at sewage works rendering them inoperable.

Burning waste oil can also cause air pollution.

It is an offence to cause pollution, either deliberately or accidentally. Magistrates now impose heavy fines for oil pollution offences, in addition to the cost of cleaning up the pollution and the inevitable bad publicity which follows a case. Oil pollution can be a costly business.

The 'Oil Care' Campaign is aimed at helping you to avoid causing pollution and its expensive consequences.

It is supported by the Environment Agency in England and Wales and the Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland referred to in this leaflet as 'the Agency'.

How it happens

Even if your premises are not near a river, oil can still reach a local watercourse or sewage works through the drainage system.

Oil pollution happens in one of the following ways:

- Oil is spilt during delivery or when storage tanks are filled.
- Storage tanks leak because they are not maintained, or because they are not protected from vandalism.
- Storage tanks are poorly designed.
- Oil separators are not used on rain water drains, or they are not maintained.
- Used oil is poured into drains or allowed to soak into the ground.
- Used oil is burned on a bonfire.



Bad storage.

Pollution prevention

Oil can pollute water, air and land. Help to look after your environment by storing and disposing of oil properly.



DISPOSAL OF WASTE OIL

Do not tip oil into any drain. Many drains are connected directly to a river or stream and pollution will occur. Do not burn waste oil on a bonfire. Used car engine oil should be taken to an oil bank for recycling. Telephone 0800 66 33 66 free to find the location of your nearest used oil bank.

Large quantities of used oil, generated at sites such as garages, should be collected by a registered contractor who will recycle it and who may buy it from you. Oil is valuable – look after it!

STORAGE

Oil storage installations should be sited on an impervious base and surrounded by an oil-tight bund wall. The bunded area should be large enough to contain at least 110% of the volume of the tank and all the pipes and gauges should be enclosed within it. The vent pipe should be directed downwards into the bund. There should be no drainage outlet in the wall and the installation should be protected from vandalism. Ask your nearest Agency office for a copy of the guidance note PPG2.



PETROL FILLING STATIONS

Rain water from filling stations may discharge to a watercourse via an oil separator. Any contaminated wash water used to clean up oil spillages on the forecourt must be discharged to the foul sewer via an oil separator or collected for disposal off site. For more details ask your local Agency office for a copy of the guidance note PPG7.

DELIVERY

Supervise all deliveries of oil to ensure that storage tanks are not overfilled and that the oil is delivered into the right tank. Stop the delivery if there is any spillage or over-flow. Fuel delivery areas should be surrounded by a raised kerb with the drainage passing through a suitable oil separator. Emergency spillage procedures should be in place.



CAR PARKS

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) would normally be required for large car parks, as they are often connected to the rain water drainage system which leads to a local watercourse. Contact the Agency for guidance.

PIPELINES

Underground oil pipelines may be subject to corrosion, this poses a risk to underground water supplies. Where possible, above ground pipelines should be used. Where this is not an option, measures to protect against corrosion and physical damage should be taken.